

Excerpts from "The Racial Characteristics and Art of the Russian People." by ARAKI, Sadao.

"Leave a pine-tree to grow in verdancy as luxuriantly as it pleases. Leave the green grass to grow as rank as it likes." Said I recently to a certain foreigner. "It is the same with any nation or any man. It would be well for any nation or any man to lead a natural, unfettered life."

When we deal with Russian problems, I am of opinion that we should reflect upon the fundamental character of the Russian people. Without this reflection nothing could be carried forward smoothly. Therein also lies such a fundamental problem as how to preserve peace of the world, mankind, Far East and Japan. Hence, leave a pine-tree as a pine-tree and leave the grass as the grass, letting each grow to its innate nature.

The Russians have really a good broad mind. I fervently wish that they will never lose that beautiful characteristic. Those DOBRYI (good) and GOSTJEPRIIMNYI (affable) Russians who show genuine hearty smiles, who enjoy their tea settling around a SAMOVAR, and who drive a TROIKA through the fleecy snow. Their DOBRYI and GOSTJEPRIIMNYI. How I enjoyed them to my heart's content during my long stay in Russia! Such a hard, logical and mechanical temperament as that of Marx or the Germans cannot be found in them.

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I am second to none in loving genuine great Russians.

This is well proved by the character and works of Tolstoy and by the other pieces of the Russian literature and arts.

During the last Tsarist regime this great national trait of the Russian people used to be oppressed and distorted and at the present moment it is again under oppression in the different way.

Nevertheless, I believe it is this naive and good-natured Russian nation that is actually capable of achieving a great enterprise of world-wide scale.

The people of Great Russia themselves are the most lovable men in the world. Their racial attachments to a SAMOVAR or tea and a TROIKA, and other customs and manners are affable and agreeable. They may be in perfect harmony with us Japanese. They will become a strong bond which binds Japan and Russia in true amity.

When a traveller loses his way in the Russian country, some one in the village will take him to his house. He will accommodate him with a night's lodging, sharing meals and having a good time with him. This is a custom of the Russians. It is their characteristic and the aspect and spirit of the true Russians.



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I sincerely hope that they will keep their own civilization by maintaining true Russian characteristics and their strong points. It is my ardent desire. It is no exaggeration to say that I implore that they may not lose their national characteristic, not only for Russia but for the East and the world.

In this regard, I believe that we Japanese must strive to understand the true nature of the real Russian people. One's superficial observations are liable to mislead one. For the cause of peace, we must love each other for his real human value.

In his (Tolstoy's) profound idea Spiritual civilization is gloriously in full bloom and real human value is sparkling.

The transfer of the North Manchuria Railway is still fresh in our memory. It was reported then that the transfer was carried out with an admirable attitude on the part of the Russian railway staff. The handing over of the business was effected in competent running order. It was said that even a pen that had been absent mindedly forgotten was left as it was. The ink and inkstands were left on the desks in the same way. They were waiting for new masters on the desks as they had been. The rooms, framed pictures and documents except personal

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properties were left exactly<sup>as</sup> they had been a few minutes before the transfer. Here the national characteristic of the Russian people was shown in bold relief. Great is the Russian mind, indeed.

Lovable Russians, stand up again as genuine Russians. A crow should not imitate a swan. If there is anything in Russia that is alien to her national character, it will be liquidated after all, as it will come to a deadlock of its own accord.

The genuine goodness and the innate greatness of the Russians should by no means be subjected to the hair-splitting industrialization or the rigid mechanization of the German system. If such a thing is enforced, what would be the ultimate result?



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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

"The Racial Characteristics and Art of the Russian People." by ARAKI, Sadao.

We hereby certify that the above-mentioned article was contributed by the writer to the July number, 1935, of the GEKKAN RUSSIA (the monthly RUSSIA) published by our company.

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「ロシアノ民族性ト藝術」

尾 木 貞 夫

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ロシヤノ民族性トシテ

荒木貞夫

「松ハ松デ、ソノ葉ノ伸ビ行クマ、ニ、草ハ草デ、  
成長シ發ル體ニ放ツテ置キナサイ。ドノ民族モドノ  
人間モソノ本然ノマ、無理ヲセンデ生キテユクノガ  
イ、ノデス。」トイフ意味ヲ、私ハ最近或ル外人ニ言  
ツタコトデアツタ。

自分達ハロシヤノ問題ニ對シテモ彼ノ民族ノ本質  
ニアルモノヲ反省スベキデアルト思フ。此ノ反省ナ  
クシテハ何事モ圓滑ニヤツテ行ク事ハ出來ナイ。如  
何ニシテ世界ノ平和ヲ、人類ノ平和ヲ、極東ノ平和  
ヲ、日本ノ平和ヲ保ツベキデアルカ、ト言フ根本問  
題ガ此處ニ發スル。松ハ松ノマ、草ハ草ノマ、オ  
ノガ目々生カシテ行ケ!

眞ニロシヤ人ハ善イ太イ心ヲ持ツテキル。願ハク  
ベアノ美シイ氣質ヲ失ハシメタクナイモノデアアル。  
アノ善良ナ、アノ人情ツコイ、腹ノ底マデ笑ヒヲ見  
セルロシヤ人。サモワルヲ因ンデ、オ茶ヲ飲ンデキ  
ル彼等。トロイカデ、雪ノ中ヲ疾驅スル彼  
等。彼等ノドールイ。彼等ノゴスチブリヨムヌモ  
私ハ長イロシヤ流在中ドレホド、ソレヲ道與シタコ  
トカ!

ドイツ人的ナ、マルクスノ様ナ、アノ機械主義的

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テ合理的ナ國イ心ハ、彼等ノ中ニハ決シテ見出スコトヘ出來ナイ。私ハ大ロシアノ本然性ヲ愛好スル點デ人後ニ落テナイ。

トルストイノ性格ヤ作品、或ハ多クノロシアノ文學ヤ美術ナドガ、ソレヲヨク語ツテキル。

嘗テ帝國時代ニハ、ソノ偉大ナロシア人ノ特性ガ歪メラレ壓迫サレテ來タ。ソシテ、今日再ビ、進ナ意味デソノ特性ガ壓ヘ付ケラレテキル。

世界的ナ大事業ヲ本當ニ完成出來ルノハ、實ニコノ純朴ナ、善良ナ、人ノイ、ロシア人デアルト思フ。

大ロシア人ソノモノハ實ニ愛スベキ人間デアリ、茶飲ミ好キナ民族性ヤサモワル、トロイカノ氣分、風俗モ習慣モ好モシイ微笑マシイモノデアル。コレハ我々日本人ト實ニビツタリ呼吸ノ合スルトコロデ、コレコソ眞ノ日露兩民族ノ親善デアラウ。

ロシアノ片田舎デ、ヨク旅人が迷フコトガアル。ソナナ時、村人ハ已ガ家ニ旅人ヲ伴ヒ、宿ヲ貸シ、食事ヲ共ニシ、余シイ時ヲ過ス慣ヘシガアル。之ガ彼等ノ特質デアリ、本當ノロシア人ノ家デアリ、心デアル。

ロシア人ニ、眞ノロシア的ナ特性ヲ、長所ヲ持チ認ケテ、ロシア文化ヲ永ク保ツ様望ンデ止マナイ。



此ノロシヤ性ヲ失ヘナイ様ニ、ロシヤノ爲、東洋ノ爲メ世界ノタメ願ツテ止マナイ。哀訴スルト言ツテモ過言デハナイ。

我々ハ日本ニ對シテモ亦、眞ノ日本人ヲ理解スル様ニシナケレバナラナイ。表皮的ナ觀察ハ誤解ヲ招キ易イ。平和ノ爲ニ、オ互ヒガ、眞實ノ人間ヲ愛シ合ヘナケレバナラナイ。

アノ深刻ナ恩怨ノ中ニハ、精神文化ノ華ガ爛ト咲キ亂レテ、眞ノ人間ノ光ガソノ光芒ヲナゲテキルノダ。

北緯國渡ハ我々ノ記憶ニマダ生々シイ。アノ際ニ、ロシヤ側ノ職員職員ハ實ニ立派ナ態度デ引渡ヲ了ヘタト云フ。事務ノ引キ渡キハスベテ居據キノ體ナサレ、ベンハ斜ニアツタモノハ斜ノマ、机上ノインクモ、インク壺モ、ソノマ、ノ表デ新シイ主人ヲ待チ迎ヘタト言フ。室ハ室テ、銀モ金モ、私物以外ノモノハ幾分前ノ如クデアツタ。コノ中ニモロシヤ人ノ面目ガ層如トシテキル。大キナロシヤ人ノ心デアル。

變スベキロシヤ人ヨ、再ビロシヤ人トシテ立テ。

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鳥へ白鳥ノ眞似ヲスベキデナイ。ロシヤニロシヤ、  
ラシカラザルモノガ寄食シテキルトセバ、ソレハ目  
ヲ行詰リ清算サレル外ナカラウ。

ロシヤ人ノヨサヲ、天然ノマハノ偉大性ヲドイツ  
的ナ微密ナ工業化ヤ、ユトリナイ機械化ニヨツテ表  
達サセテハナラナイ。斯ル事ヲ以テ事ヲ草スルナ  
ラバ、ソノ成果ハ果シテ如何デアラウカ?